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6 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SUBJECT :

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1. For your information, herewith some reports on [redacted]
experience and some thoughts thereon.

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2. The initial HTAUTOMAT team that went to [redacted] to
assist in the establishment and maintenance of [redacted] was composed
of [redacted] on the PI side serving according to plan as the
Deputy to [redacted], and [redacted] a processing specialist. You
may recall that we had no difficulty whatever in getting [redacted] to agree
to the inclusion of these people.

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3. Based upon my talks with the aforementioned gentlemen, both of whom have returned although [redacted] only recently, I report
the following facts as they saw them:

a. The physical quarters and conditions for both processing
and their own living left a great deal to be desired. Air conditioning
has now been established in the processing center.

b. The need for personnel experienced in PI and the peculiar
processing requirements of this film were obvious. Some of the
processing personnel were not even aware of what I believe is
called a tension spring on the A-9. A number of technical problems
arose where firsthand experience was very important.

c. Despite the foregoing and due no doubt in large part to
the adaptable personalities of the two gentlemen involved, working
relationships for the most part went along smoothly.

d. Due perhaps to inadequate explanations by Air Force Headquarters to [] there were problems of inadequate logistic support which would no doubt have not arisen if those responsible [] had had a fuller appreciation of the operation.

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e. Despite the fact that the books show a number (I think 24) of A-9s [] the number that is operational is considerably less, and some cannibalizing was required in order to get the A-9s for []

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f. Whereas the Air Force plans for recce tech units and staffing no doubt look very well on paper, it is something less than that in practice. I was amazed at the reports given me by [] on the level of training or capability of the PIs provided by the Air Force. (I should mention in passing that two commanders provided by the Navy were said to be very competent.)

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4. I am not sure that Colonel Macia could do anything about effecting improvements in the basic conditions from which some of the foregoing problems stem. However, at the appropriate time I do intend to discuss these things with him informally for such help as that may be to the Air Force.

5. On reflection, I am quite satisfied with the fundamental decision that was made at the time [] was established, namely, that the Agency isn't going into the field recce tech business in connection with CHALICE. However, I am convinced that it is important HTAUTOMAT have available for emergencies, such as establishment of [], and for more routine operation, such as at [] experienced personnel who can lend a hand, and I will have to prod [] to ensure that they have taken proper steps to provide necessary logistical support and qualified manpower.

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CIA TALENT Control Officer

[]cw
1-SA/PD/DCI
2-CIA TCO
3-Chrono